(c) As per its terms of reference, the Commission has sent its recommendations including those relating to uniform policy for method of recruitment and retirement age of judicial officers to all the State Governments. The recommendations are under examination in so far as they relate to the Central Government.

Ammendment of Chartered Accountants Act, 1949

2088. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has suggested amendments to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949; and

(b) if so, by when Government propose to bring amendments to the Act?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amendment proposals are under consideration of the Government. The Government proposes to introduce an Amendment Bill for amending the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 in Parliament during the coming Budget Session.

Reconciliation Centres in States

2089. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of reconciliation centers have been set up in Gujarat to overcome the burden of Court cases;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to set up such centers in other States to reduce the burden of Court cases;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to give any direction to other States for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir. (b) to (e) The implementation of legal aid programmes under the

Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, is the responsibility of the Central Authority constituted under Section 3 of the Act. Hon. Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief and Hon. Mr. Justice S.P. Bharucha, Judge, Supreme Court of India is the Executive Chairman of the Central Authority.

In January, 1999, issue of Nayaya Deep (which is official journal of NALSA), the Hon'ble Executive Chairman had desired that Legal Aid functionaries must make every effort to bring settlements through mediation and conciliation. In some of the States including Delhi, such Centres are already functioning.

The question of establishing counselling and conciliation Centres for guiding and motivating litigants to resolve their disputes amicably was considered as Item Number 7 at the Second Annual Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities held under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authorities at Hyderabad on 9.10.1999 where it was resolved that such Centres should be established in all districts in the States.

During the deliberations at the said Annual Meet, the Hon. Executive Chairman, NALSA had observed that this matter (establishing counselling and conciliation Centres) required further push up and in case the psychologists, doctors and housewives act as conciliators, the disputes could be settled amicably.

Law Schools in States

2090. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government propose to start law schools in various states on the lines of National Law School, Bangalore, to provide access to the high quality law education to Indian students;

(b) if so, the number of schools Government propose to start, which States have so far been identified for the purpose and what are the criteria for identification;

(c) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to start one in the State; and